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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: Elliott D. LIGHT et al.

Serial No.: 09/759,107

Group Art Unit: 2645

Filed: January 12, 2001

Examiner: not known

For: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR OBTAINING TELEPHONE STATUS OVER A NETWORK

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Hon. Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

Please amend the above-identified patent application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 1-51 by adding new claims 52 to 61 to read as follows:

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52. (New) A system for communicating status of a plurality of telephones over a network to an inquiring computer, wherein at least one telephone is connected to the Internet, the system comprising:

a telephone status monitor connected so as to monitor a telephone status of the plurality of telephones; and

a telephone status file connected to the telephone status monitor for receiving the telephone status of the plurality of telephones, the telephone status file being accessible by the inquiring computer via the network.

53. (New) The system for communicating status over a network of claim 52, wherein the telephone status comprises on-hook and off-hook condition of the telephone.

54. (New) The system for communicating status over a network of claim 52, wherein the telephone status comprises the status of consumer options for telephone service.

55. (New) The system for communicating status over a network of claim 52, the system further comprising:

a calling party telephone; and

logic enabling the calling party telephone to place a telephone call to one of the plurality of POTS telephones when that one of the plurality of POTS telephones is in an on-hook status.

Date: November 20, 2002

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Atty. Dkt. No.: 2344-001-CIP2

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